ALTERNATIVE C-1 - GRAZING USE (APPLICANT'S PROPOSAL)

OBJECTIVES:

Mitigate the effects of mining disturbance on the leased lands.

Mitigate safety and health hazards.

Protect the environment with particular concern for the water resources.

Enhance the visual resources of the area.

FUTURE LAND USES:

Livestock grazing.

Specifically excluded are habitation, farming, and construction of commercial or industrial facilities.

RECLAMATION MEASURES:

OPEN PITS:

Backfill to three feet above the groundwater recovery level (as determined by Anaconda).

Backfill, with protore, waste dumps H and J, and excess material obtained from the sloping of waste piles.

Cover the backfill material with four feet of non-hazardous waste, and one foot of topsoil.

Buttress the west side of the Gavilon Mesa highwall (the top of the highwall may be cut back by blasting).

Fence the north, west, and south sides of the North and South Paguate Pits with six-foot chainlink.

Scale all other highwalls.

PROTORE STOCKPILES:

Use all protore as backfull material.

WASTE PILES:

Relocate dumps H and J to the open pits as backfill material.

Cover dumps that contain hazardous material on their outer surface with four feet of non-hazardous material and one foot of topsoil.

Cover dumps that do not contain hazardous material on their outer surface with one foot of topsoil.

Leave previously topsoiled and revegetated dumps undisturbed (except to reseed, as necessary).

Reduce the angle of some dump slopes. The approximate average grade would be 2.25 to 1 with terraces and rock-lined drop structures to drain surface runoff off the piles.

SITE STABILITY AND DRAINAGE:

Remove all waste that lies within 200 feet of the Rio Moquino and Rio Paguate.

Armor arroyo headcuts that have the potential for encroaching upon waste dumps.

Construct a series of micro-basis within each open pit (approximately three per pit).

Construct erosion control berms on the perimeter of all waste piles. Construct a series of erosion control berms on the top of all waste piles to hold surface runoff.

Remove waste dump J, and protore stockpiles 17-BC and 6-B to unblock the ephemeral drainage on the south side of the mine. The two blocked drainages on the north and south sides of Gavilon Mesa will remain blocked.

The remainder of the site will drain to the Rio Paguate and Rio Moquino.

Modify waste dumps as previously discussed.

STRUCTURES:

Construct a cement bulkhead 680 feet below the collar of the P-10 decline, and backfill to the surface. Place a 10-foot cement surface plug in each vent hole. All other mine entries would be covered by backfilling, or have been previously plugged.

Remove crusher, tipple, and all other mining equipment.

Salvage all rail spur track, ties, and the Quirk loading dock. Remove ballast and contaminated soils to the open pits. Cover disturbed area with one foot of topsoil.

Clear the four main roads on the site, and the parking areas on Lease Number 4 of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved. These roads and parking areas will remain. Clear all other roads, parking areas, and associated structures of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved, and recontour these areas to conform to the surrounding terrain.

Remove all power lines.

Remove all pumps, and cap all water wells.

Clean up P-10 mine buildings and the New Shop until radiological values of twice background are achieved. Leave these buildings and sewage systems intact. Remove all other buildings including the employee housing, Jackpile Shop, Open Pit Offices, and powder magazines.

REVEGETATION:

Obtain topsoil from the four existing topsoil stockpiles and from a

topsoil borrow area along the Rio Moquino. Place one foot of topsoil on all backfill material and waste dumps.

Revegetate all disturbed areas to approximately the species density and diversity of the surrounding undisturbed land. Revegetate with predominantly native grasses and shrubs that are conducive to the grazing of livestock.

Prevent grazing for three years following reclamation.

MONITORING:

Continue monitoring (by Anaconda) of surface water, groundwater, air quality, subsidence, revegetation success, concentration of toxic elements in revegetation species for a period of three years following the completion of reclamation activities.

The Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would monitor every aspect of the reclamation activities, to assure compliance with all reclamation requirements. The Pueblo of Laguna and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would control future land use on the site, and would prevent any uses not provided for by this reclamation alternative.